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§ 101. Letter from Prof. I. H. Hall.—The Syrian Protestant College is on high, rocky ground, about a mile from the centre of Beirut, just opposite the point of rocks that juts farthest north into the sea on Râs Beirut. Beirut lies on a jog in the coast, so that the city generally, and the front of the college in particular, look out on the sea towards the north. I hear the noise of the sea continually, as I sit in my room. To the west, the coast bends southward just by the observatory, and we have a splendid sweep of sea view in that direction also. The college grounds are full of flowers—a real wild botanic garden, with a very great number of species, of which I cannot give even a catalogue just now; and all winter we have a succession of flowers. The most showy things out at present are the *Ranunculus Asiaticus*, a splendid crimson-scarlet flower, from 2 to 3½ inches in diameter, the flaming poppy, and a beautiful wild pink gladiolus with wide grass-like leaves, that grows in the standing corn. The most delicate and beautiful *Cyclamen Aleppicum*—of which more another time—is just going out of flower. I can only mention the ferns this time. We have four ferns on the college grounds: the *Adiantum Capillus-Veneris*, the *Asplenium Ceterach*, the *Cheilanthes fragrans* (or *odora*), and a *Polypodium* which I have not found in sufficient quantities to make out. They all grow in crevices in the rocks. The first mentioned has an Arabic name which signifies “dweller in the pits”—*i. e.*, in the *beers*. This will not surprise one who has seen this fern growing in the Roman baths, or in the deep places at Pompeii. Indeed, the best locality for it on the college grounds was inside of the recesses of a nest of old Phœnician tombs which were brought to light in excavating for the foundations of the main college building, of which tombs the fern immediately took possession. However, the locality was destroyed a few weeks ago, as the tombs had to be blown up and filled in for sanitary reasons. In this last mentioned process, however, another *beer* was brought to light; for, like all the hill-sides of the region, Râs Beirut is riddled with old tombs, the entrances and steps to many of which are visible without any excavation. The *Asplenium Ceterach* grows deep in the crevices of the rocks, much after the manner of *A. pinnatifidum*. It also grows in the stone walls all about Beirut. The *Cheilanthes* is scarce; but on the Greek island of Sira, behind the town, I found it in abundance, along with *Nothochlaena lanuginosa*. In the town, ferns from the mountains are cultivated with more or less success, but the ferns of the region are not numerous.

BEIRUT, Syria, April 6, 1876.

ERRATA.—§ 92, l. 1, read “T. S. Brandegees”; l. 7, read “Weissia”; l. 15, read “D. Laureri”; l. 30, read “G. calyptrata”; page 90, l. 5, read “A. minutissimum”; l. 8, read “Stereodon”.

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The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER, the President of the Club, may be found at 245 Broadway.